

**MINUTES OF THE
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2007

At a meeting of the **Planning and Economic Development Committee**, held Tuesday, July 10, 2007, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Vosburg-Chair, Brdak, Brown, DeSaele, DiMaria, Drolet, Duzyj, Gielegthem, Haggerty, Mijac, Rengert, Roberts and Crouchman (ex-officio).

Absent and excused was Camphous-Peterson.

Other Commissioners Also Present:

Commissioner Bruley

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Vosburg called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Haggerty, to adopt the agenda, as amended (to include item #6A). **The Motion Carried.**

MINUTES

MOTION

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Rengert, to approve the April 17 and May 8, 2007 minutes of this committee, as written. **The Motion Carried.**

**PRESENTATION FROM MOUNT CLEMENS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY REGARDING MACOMB PLACE STREETScape PROJECT**

Mount Clemens Mayor Barb Dempsey thanked commissioners for allowing them to show the presentation to this committee. She introduced Mr. Arthur Mullen, Executive Director, Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority.

Mr. Mullen gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Macomb Place Streetscape Improvement Project. Key topics covered included: Boundary of Proposed Improvements, Macomb Place Project Timeline, Macomb Place RFP Review Committee, Macomb Place Project Goals, Vistas, and Macomb Place Next Steps.

MOTION

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by DeSaele, to receive and file the presentation from the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority regarding the Macomb Place Streetscape Project.

After the presentation, commissioners directed questions to Mr. Mullen about topics that he covered in his presentation. Questions were asked about bike paths and connecting them to the downtown area. It was suggested that Mr. Mullen contact the Planning and Economic Development Department about low impact designs. It was also suggested that he contact the Facilities and Operations Department.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

AUTHORIZE CITY OF MOUNT CLEMENS THROUGH ITS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE THE COUNTY PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS KENNEDY SQUARE IN THE MACOMB PLACE STREETSCAPE PROJECT FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN PURPOSES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY HAGGERTY, SUPPORTED BY RENGERT, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF MOUNT CLEMENS THROUGH ITS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE THE COUNTY PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS KENNEDY SQUARE IN THE MACOMB PLACE STREETSCAPE PROJECT FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN PURPOSES. NO COUNTY FUNDS ARE TO BE COMMITTED TO THIS PROJECT AT THIS TIME.

Board Chair Crouchman informed committee members that presently there are funds set aside for repairs and that part of the repair funds could be allocated to the project, if necessary.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

Committee recessed at 9:28 a.m.

Committee reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

PRESENTATION FROM AUTOMATION ALLEY'S INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CENTER

Mr. Noel Nevshehir, Director, Automation Alley International Business Center, introduced his colleague, Ms. Freia Boeckel.

Mr. Nevshehir gave a PowerPoint presentation on Automation Alley's International Business Center. Key topics covered included: About Automation Alley, Michigan in the Global Economy, Reasons Why More Than 2,000 Foreign Companies Have Included Michigan Into Their Global Expansion Strategies, Southeast Michigan in the Global Economy, Why Southeast Michigan?, Michigan Exports Around the World, Michigan's Top 10 Export Markets, and Automation Alley: Driving the Growth of Southeast Michigan.

MOTION

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Drolet, to receive and file the presentation from Automation Alley's International Business Center.

Commissioner Brown suggested that Mr. Cassin and Mr. Nevshehir arrange a meeting with a few Macomb County residents of eastern European descent in order to discuss business opportunity and investment. He spoke about the fact that a lot of people have ties back to their home countries. Mr. Nevshehir thought it would be a very well attended event.

Mr. Nevshehir informed committee members that he brought with him packets of information on Automation Alley and brochures on their trade mission to India.

Questions were directed to Mr. Nevshehir about alternative fuel technology.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

PRESENTATION FROM PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Mr. Cassin distributed copies of their new Economic Development Investment Activity Map. He overviewed the handout. After the presentation, he thanked commissioners for their investment in his department in that they are now at full staff.

Mr. Robert Tess gave a PowerPoint presentation. Key topics covered included: Macomb County Economic Development Strategy, Economic Development Services Group (EDSG), Business Retention, Business Expansion, Business Attraction, EDSG Staff – Areas of Responsibility, Sources of Business Investment and Job Creation, 2007 Investment Success, and 2007 - Select Business Retention, Expansion and Attraction Successes. During the presentation, he introduced his Program Area staff.

MOTION

A motion was made by Rengert, supported by Gielegthem, to receive and file the presentation from the Department of Planning and Economic Development.

Commissioner Drolet referred to the List of Successes so far this year and asked what specifically was done to beat out the competition. Mr. Tess spoke about the great deal of knowledge they have on tax incentives. He then spoke about the tax abatement process.

Commissioner Drolet questioned if the MEDC has anybody to advocate for business. He asked what type of communication they have with the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce and how often they contact them. Mr. Tess answered these inquiries.

Questions were directed to Mr. Tess about marketing and how he is getting the word out to businesses.

Mr. Cassin noted that his department will be making a briefer presentation to all of the Focus Macomb committees.

Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Vosburg adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter